

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 and 14-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claim 14 is amended. Support for the amendments to independent claim 14 can be found, at least, within Fig. 1 and its corresponding disclosure. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Almeida at the interview held May 19, 2011, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Fujiwara (U.S. Patent No. 5,329,390) in view of Kostecki (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,572) and Harada (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,102); rejects claims 14-17, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Fujiwara in view of Kostecki; and rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Fujiwara and Kostecki in view of Baraff (U.S. Patent No. 4,223,308). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious, at least, (1) an image record apparatus including a light

application section for applying exposure light to a plurality of image record media and a control section for controlling the light application section and the voltage application section so that exposure light representing an image is applied to the plurality of image record media and the image write voltage is applied to the image record media on which the same visible image as the image is to be recorded, wherein the plurality of image record media each includes an image record layer on which an image is recorded upon application of exposure light, each image record media having a different image record layer; and a functional layer formed on one side of the image record layer for transmitting the exposure light and transmitting 10% or less of visible light, each of the plurality of image record media being stacked on each other for placement to record a visible image on each of the image record media, as recited by independent claim 1; and (2) an image record apparatus for recording a visible image on an image record medium including an exposure section for applying exposure light to an image record medium, wherein the image record medium includes a first and a second image record layer, the first and second image record layers being different, each of on which the same visible image is recorded upon the application of exposure light, and a functional layer formed between the first and second image record layers for transmitting the exposure light and transmitting 10% or less of visible light, as recited by independent claim 14.

Specifically, the Office Action admits that Fujiwara fails to disclose a plurality of image record media to which the same visible image is to be recorded, however asserts that Harada cured the deficiencies of Fujiwara. During the interview, the Examiner clarified that, in his opinion, one skilled in the art at the time of invention could use the teachings of Harada (i.e., to drive and write to three or more liquid crystal layers of different colors with one voltage source and one light source) to then place two or more of the liquid crystal layers (i.e.,

layers 13-17, between electrodes 12a and 12b) of Fujiwara atop one another to allegedly arrive at the claimed subject matter.

However, as discussed in the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that such a combination fails to render obvious the claimed subject matter. In particular, the light absorbing layer 14 of Fujiwara would prevent sufficient light from permeating the first layer and reaching the second layer in an alleged stack of Fujiwara device layers.

Fujiwara discloses at col. 3, lines 48-61 that the light absorbing layer 14 is formed of a coating material of carbon dispersed type having a transmittance of about 0.3% with respect to the visible light range. One skilled in the art at the time of invention would understand that such a weak and faint light signal could not be used to activate an additional image record media.

Additionally, one skilled in the art at the time of invention would have known that carbon black has a high absorbance outside of the visible spectrum, at both the UV spectrum and at the near-infrared spectrum. As such, one skilled in the art at the time of invention would have known that the carbon black light absorbing layer 14 of Fujiwara would prevent enough light from passing through itself to activate an additional image record media and thus that that merely stacking several of the device of Fujiwara atop one another would not result in a functioning device.

Further, Harada uses only one absorbing layer corresponding to its three liquid crystal layers on a non-display side, whereas claim 5 requires that each of the claimed image record layers includes a functional layer. One skilled in the art at the time of invention would have know that in order for sufficient light to permeate through the three respective layers of Harada, more than one absorption layer cannot be used. As such, one skilled in the art at the time of invention would not have replaced the one light absorption layer and three display layers of Harada with two image record layers, each including a functional layer.

Finally, Harada uses only one light absorbing layer on a non-display side of its device, whereas claim 14 requires a functional layer formed between the first and second image record layers. One skilled in the art at the time of invention would have known that there is no combination of the devices of Harada and Fujiwara that could be combined to create an appropriately functioning device as claimed.

One skilled in the art at the time of invention would not have combined the teachings of Fujiwara with Harada as he would have know that such a combination would have resulted in a device that would not function as claimed by independent claim 5 and 14.

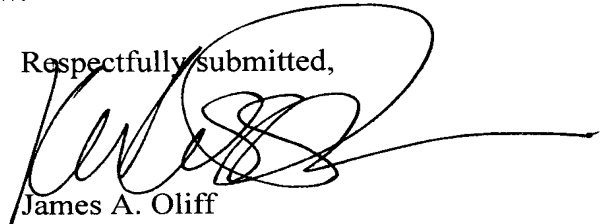
Accordingly, the applied references fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious each and every element of independent claims 5 and 14. As such, independent claims 5 and 14 are patentable. The dependent claims are also patentable, at least, by virtue of their dependencies from a patentable independent claim, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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